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REMARKS

Claim 38 is pending in this application following entry of the Amendment presented above. It is noted that Claim 38 may be considered to correspond exactly or substantially to Claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,694 (issued January 18, 2000).

The specification has also been amended to update the priority claim and to enter the amendments already presented in the parent application.

Applicants note that they have submitted concurrently herewith a Request to Suspend Examination Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.103(a) to suspend substantive examination of this application for six months.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sloan Smith